

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

White Rock Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER N side SR 1315, 0.4 mi. N of ext. of SR 1519

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hollister

X VICINITY OF

2nd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Halifax

CODE

83

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

X NO

PRESENT USE

X AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Robert C. Williams

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 176

CITY, TOWN

Hollister

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27844

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Halifax County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Halifax

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

White Rock Plantation exemplifies the continuity of ownership and use by the Williams family for roughly two centuries. The frame plantation house stands in a shaded yard, with the family cemetery to the west and a full complement of outbuildings to the rear (north). Beyond the rear fence which encloses the outbuildings is the site of an icehouse, and still further back, family memory states, is the site of the older house, recalled as being a brick house of eighteenth century date. The present road runs along the east side of the complex. Around the house stretches farmland and wooded land, undisturbed and still in agricultural use, significant to the long history of the plantation.

The main house is a large two-story frame dwelling in which the impact of successive generations of the family can be clearly seen. The dwelling is of traditional form, five bays wide, with a gable roof, and pairs of exterior chimneys at each end. The main (south) facade is now sheltered by a tall "Mount Vernon" porch added in the mid-twentieth century; this is the latest of several revisions of the main facade at intervals, all of which have left the main body of the house undisturbed. The earliest photograph of the house shows the main facade uninterrupted, with a modillion cornice along the roofline, and a shed porch extending across the front and along the east side and apparently across the rear; a one-story shed addition projected from the west side. About 1915 a central gable was added to the roofline, the modillion cornice retained, and the west wing expanded. The porch configuration remained. The central gable has been removed as well as the one-story porch, and the modillion cornice is repeated along the present porch roofline. The present porch does not complement the house, but it is a removable addition to a house that retains important and complete fabric from the nineteenth and perhaps eighteenth century, of a quality rarely surviving in the county. Family tradition recalls that the house had great columns, tall and fluted, "of solid light wood," with half columns flanking the doorway. The columns were so large "you could hardly get your arms around them." When T. C. Williams renovated the house in the early twentieth century, these were taken down and burned, the family recalls.

The house stands on a stone rubble foundation, and the double-shoulder chimneys are of brick laid in Flemish bond, also standing on stone bases--a usage typical in the region. Molded weatherboard is found consistently on the exterior, as are windows with six-over-six sash framed with molded, mitered architraves and robust molded sills. The frames and sills are apparently original, but some of the sash replaces late nineteenth or early twentieth century two-over-two sash, an effort to return to the earlier character. The rear elevation is less altered than the front, and the modillion cornice is undisturbed.

The interior follows an unusual plan, which is possibly the result of the house having been built over various early generations (late eighteenth-early nineteenth century) as well as remodeled at various times. The central entrance opens into a small stair hall. To the right is a small room, and to the rear of hall and front room is a large single room. To the left are two rooms one in front of the other; the whole composes a rectangular plan. Changes in elevation suggest that possibly the two left rooms might be later--early nineteenth century?--but there is no obvious confirmation of this. There are two chief periods of finish: the earliest is a

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standard traditional Georgian finish of probably eighteenth century date; second is a distinctive and important early nineteenth century Adamesque remodeling of the "Montmorenci-Prospect Hill" school. There is little evidence of heavy early twentieth century activity to parallel that outside.

In the stair hall, there is a combination of the earliest treatment--the wide board chair rails with beaded edges, a simple, compact stair with square posts, heavy handrail, and short runs, sheathed stair wall, and other details--with an intriguing overlay of the second period: the stair is adorned with crescent brackets with tiny carved scallops, and a guilloche-carved string. This is the only surviving North Carolina example of the unusual Adamesque stair treatment seen in Montmorenci (the stair now reproduced in modified form at Winterthur) and Prospect Hill (destroyed, interiors moved out of state). (The guilloche is seen only at the latter, the bracket treatment at both.) Doors in this room are treated with slim, rounded, reeded pilaster and small cornerblocks of late Federal-early Greek Revival character.

The small west front room expresses the early finish of the house, with its board wainscot, simple chair rail, and Georgian mantel with raised panels: a single horizontal panel beneath two smaller horizontal ones side by side. The frames are mitered molded ones.

The large rear parlor shows most clearly the combination of Georgian and Federal styles. Doors are of six raised panels, hung on HL hinges in robust molded frames, and the room has a wainscot of a double range of raised panels. Yet the mantel is of the flamboyant Federal type seen at Prospect Hill: paired engaged colonnettes carry an entablature with rich reeding, sunbursts, fans, and floral motifs, in characteristic patterns.

In the two east rooms the reeded door frames recur, and the mantels are only slightly different versions of that in the large parlor. (The mantel in the rear room has been removed in the renovation of the room, which is now a kitchen.)

The second floor plan is similar to the first, except that a narrow hall framed by an arch on consoles extends to the rear of the stair hall, taking its space from the room above the large rear parlor. Most door and window frames are mitered and molded, with several versions. Some HL hinges are still present. Mantels are of different kinds: a reeded Federal mantel, a simpler version of those below, is in the east rear large room; a simple mantel in the rear west room; and an unusual classical mantel in the front west room, with reeded pilasters and a full Doric entablature, a logical but uncommon mantel treatment of classical forms.

The outbuildings are arranged to form three sides of a rectangle to the rear of the house, and the fence links those at the rear side of the yard. Going clockwise

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from the rear of the house, there is the site of the old kitchen, where a large chimney once stood; at the rear corner a relatively new chicken house; an early smokehouse of heavy timber frame construction, with a gable roof; the frame crib, with a gable roof and standing high on a stone foundation; the frame laundry; on the east side the dairy, of thick stone walls with plastered walls, shelves, and wide boarded ceiling; an attached Delco plant; and, toward the front of the yard, the site of the office where school was sometimes taught. At the center of the rear yard is the site of a deep rock-lined well.

A short drive now goes from the house and curves toward the present road. Originally, however, there was a long drive or lane straight from the front door of the house through a grove to another road. The place was known for its fine boxwoods, planted in circles, but the late nineteenth century when the house was unattended for a time, the box grew up, and when T. C. Williams returned there and renovated the house, the boxwood was cut down, according to family recollections.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

White Rock Plantation in western Halifax County has been in the hands of the locally prominent Williams family since 1772 when Joseph John Williams (1723-1818) acquired a tract of 3,200 acres. Williams was a leader during the Revolutionary period, serving as member of the Council of Safety, a delegate to Philadelphia in 1776, a provider of arms for North Carolina troops, and a wealthy planter. Joseph John Williams I is believed to have lived in a brick house to the rear of the present dwelling. The present late Georgian vernacular frame house was probably erected in the late eighteenth century for his son Joseph John Williams II (1775 or 1778-1808), like his father a prosperous planter. This house was given elaborate late Federal style interior embellishments, probably in the 1820s for Joseph John Williams IV and his wife Mark K. Davis. The distinctive detail this work relates it to contemporary houses erected for other members of the Williams family--Montmorenci in Warren County and Prospect Hill in Halifax (great houses now lost). Remaining in the Williams family through subsequent generations, the house has been occasionally renovated to suit current tastes but retains its notable combination of Georgian and Federal fabric. The house is complemented by the survival of a collection of early outbuildings, the family cemetery, the site of the earlier house, and broad, unspoiled rural landscape still in fields and woodlands.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the establishment in the eighteenth century, development in the antebellum period, and difficulties of retention in the postwar era of a plantation agricultural system in the Roanoke Valley, a system not predominant throughout the state but important in the northeastern central counties.
- B. Associated with the life of Joseph John Williams I, revolutionary period political figure; the site of his house is included in the property nominated, and he provided land for and perhaps built the present house for his son, and doubtless visited and perhaps visited there during his long life.
- C. Embodies distinctive characteristics of regional vernacular late Georgian architecture as expressed in the two-story frame plantation house with exterior end chimneys--a representative type; embodies distinctive characteristics of the late Federal decorative interior woodwork of the "Montmorenci-Prospect Hill School" attributed traditionally to a craftsman named Burgess; with family-related Montmorenci and Prospect Hill gone, White Rock is a significant survivor of the school and an interesting example of the application of fashionable motifs to an earlier house.
- D. Family knowledge of the sites of the well, ice house, kitchen, and earlier dwelling could enable the property to yield archeological information important in eighteenth century history.

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Family tradition concerning the history of the White Rock Plantation states that it has always been in the ownership of descendants of Joseph John Williams (1723-1818)¹ since the eighteenth century. The intimate and complex interconnections of the plantation family make it at times difficult to establish with certainty which members of this large family were residents of the house at specific times; in recent and presumably distant years ownership and residence did not always correspond. However, family wills and other papers establish a rough outline of ownership.

In 1772 Joseph John Williams acquired 3,200 acres from William Moseley, located on the southwest side of Butterwood Creek; this is Little Fishing Creek.² Joseph John Williams I was a large landowner and civic leader. His activity in the Revolutionary era is noted in the North Carolina Colonial Records. The Journal of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina shows him as a member of that group from Halifax County elected in 1776; he was a member of the Council of Safety, also from Halifax; he was appointed paymaster to the minute men in Halifax, and was empowered to purchase arms and supplies and to arrange for manufacture of bayonets, muskets, and the like. He was paid 2,150 pounds "for the use of Minute Men and the purchase of Drums, Colours, etc in the District of Halifax."³ By 1790 the census showed Williams possessing a household of 4 free white females and 3 free white males--1 over 16, 2 under, and 66 slaves, a large number at that time, which made him the fifth largest slave holder in Halifax County in that year.⁴

Joseph John Williams I (1723-1818) married first Rosannah Connor and second Elizabeth Alston. He had many children, including Martha (1771-1827) who married first Henry Hill and then Dr. Samuel Thorne (1767-1838), and whose son William Williams Thorne (1798-1838) built the house Prospect Hill; Elizabeth Alston (who had died by 1818 leaving children); Williams Williams (who married several times and built the great Warren County house, Montmorenci); Winifred Harriss; Rosannah Faulcon; and Joseph John Williams II (1775 or 1778-1808), who had married Elizabeth (Betsy) Norfleet Hunter (1778-1864) in 1797 and had children, Henry, Elizabeth (1803-ca. 1830), and Joseph John Williams III (1800-1833).⁵

Part of the complexity of the history of White Rock springs from the fact that Joseph John Williams II died in his thirties, ten years before his father, who lived to be 95. In 1795 a deed of gift was recorded in which Joseph John Williams Sr. gave to Joseph John Williams Jr. his son "for love" a tract of 400 acres on the southwest side of Little Fishing Creek into the head of Millrun together with all houses or buildings.⁶ The family identifies this property as White Rock. In the younger man's will, proved in 1808, he left various slaves and personal property to his wife and made arrangements for educating his children, but concerning land he explained: "As my Hond. Father, has not made me aright (sic) to my land, I hope and trust he will make it to my Children. I hereby nominate and appoint my Brother William Williams, my trusty and faithful friend James Harriss Executors . . . [and] guardians to my children.

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William's trust in his father's intentions was well founded, for when the elder Joseph John Williams died in 1818, his will included among the disposition of his extensive property the item,

"I give and bequeath unto the Children of my beloved son Joseph John Williams, to wit, Joseph John Williams, Henry & Elizabeth Williams to be equally divided among them, all the lands I possessed him with, lying on both sides of Little Fishing Creek and bounded as follows, beginning at the mouth of a Branch on the West side of the Creek about two or three hundred yards below where the old Mill stood on the said Creek thence up the said Branch as it meanders about six hundred yards to a Maple in said Branch, thence a westwardly course about one hundred and fifty yards by a line of marked trees to a black Jack near the path that leads from my House to his (italics added), thence south twenty nine leagues (?) west by a line of marked trees to Meltons Creek thence up the meanders of said Creek to the Mouth of a branch near the county line, thence up the said branch as it meanders to the head, and course continued to Brinkleys Road thence down the Road to my line and running so as to include all my Lands lying between aforesaid branch, Brinkleys Road, Meltons and Fishing Creeks, and all those of my Lands below the Piney(?) branch on the East side of Fishing Creek."

No mention of acreage is made, but this tract seems somewhat larger than the 1795 gift tract.

The apportionment of the property among Joseph John Williams's three children--Henry, Elizabeth, and Joseph John III--during the administration of Williams's will is uncertain at this point. It appears that Joseph John Williams III came into possession of the house known as White Rock. Obviously from the will of Joseph John Williams I, there were two Williams houses not far apart, father's and son's, connected by a path. That of Joseph John Williams I was willed to his son William, and probably this is the "old White Rock" house that the family claims was located not far to the rear of the present house and remembers as built of brick. A brick in the chimney of the frame house was seen that was dated 1749; it is thought to have been reused from the earlier building which burned long ago. The home of Joseph John Williams II thus would have been built near his father's on land given him by his father in 1795 and perhaps more later. Since he married Elizabeth Norfleet Hunter in 1797, that might have been the time at which he took over the land and built the house. Certainly the late Georgian character of the frame house would be in accord with this.

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Since Joseph John Williams III was married in 1820 to Mary K. Davis,¹⁰ it seems likely that he would have lived at his late father's frame house with his bride, and that the Federal style renovations took place for the young couple.¹¹ Who lived in the frame house from the death of Joseph John Williams II in 1808 until Joseph John Williams III's marriage in 1820 is unclear. The widow, Elizabeth N. H. Williams, remarried in 1818 and moved to Alabama with her new husband Lemuel Alston. Presumably she lived at White Rock until 1818 with her children.

Joseph John Williams III died in 1833.¹² He stated in his will that "my plantation should all be kept up and the negroes worked thereon as though I were living until one of my children become of age," with the plantations to be divided then. His widow Mary K. and the children--Elizabeth, Joseph John, Lucy Eugenia, and Thomas Calvin--were to have the other property and slaves divided among them.¹³ He stated his desire for his widow (Mary K.) to "remain on the Plantation I now live on," unless she married, then she was to have Oakland but no further interest in the other property. She was to receive the Oakland property in any case. (Since Joseph John Williams III is buried at White Rock, this may have been the plantation he cited as his residence.)

Evidently Thomas Calvin Williams I (Joseph John III's son) came into possession of the place.¹⁴ Born in 1828, shortly before his father died in 1833, he died in 1855. He seems to have gained full rights to the property from his brothers and sisters. Joseph John died young at college in 1843. Mary K., the mother, moved to Montmorenci after selling Oakland. Only Thomas Calvin was left to take care of the home place. There must have been family agreements since no records of legal transfers could be found. A letter of 1849, from a cousin visiting White Rock, refers to her infant niece Mary Ann (Thomas' daughter?) and visits from Mary K. who resided in Warren County.¹⁵

Thomas Calvin Williams (1828-1855) married Virginia Boyd in Warren County in 1848. The bond is dated October 17, 1848. Three children were born: Mary B. (1849 or 1850), Ellen L. (1852), Thomas C. II (1855). The family lived in Halifax County, presumably at White Rock. Virginia continued to live there after her husband's death, indicating that she must have received a life estate through a court settlement. In 1860, the site of Virginia's residence was valued at \$15,500 with a personal value of \$55,000. Considering the extensive land and slaves associated with antebellum White Rock, this seems to add proof to the assumption that she was living there.¹⁶

Wills, letters and other material related to the Williams family give a picture of attitudes of the day. Religion was evidently an important component of the family's life and Methodism was quite popular among the planter class of the region. The itinerant Methodist minister Francis Asbury recorded in his journal on June 20, 1780, that he had preached to 50 people at noon, then "rode over to Joseph John Williams's, a rich man of this world, and I hope sincere. I am kept through mercy." After

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Joseph John III died in 1833, the inscription was placed on his tombstone: "[he] departed this life in Great Peace April 13, 1833, in the 33 year of his life. Having felt his Soul quickening and cleansing touch of the redeemer, he desired to know more of God and himself. To obtain this he daily searched the Sacred Scriptures and retired into his closet; there with the world behind him and his God in view, he poured forth fervent and effectual prayers. In proof of this he met death with great composure of mind in the midst of weeping relatives. Our Brother the Heaven has gain."

While the wills of the family dwell mostly on distribution of property, hints of attitudes toward people, black and white, emerge as well. Joseph John Williams I, who had lived nearly a century (since 1723) at his death in 1818 made particular provision concerning the disposition of his slaves: he expressed his desire "that old Sam may live with which of my Children he pleases and when and where he pleases to stay. They are requested to treat him well as long as he lives. It is further my desire and I most earnestly recommend it to my Children individually to treat their Negroes with as much levity as their circumstances will properly admitt of." His son Joseph John Williams II, who died a decade earlier in 1808, was of similar mind: "I want the plantation kept up and the Negroes not hired out and wish them treated with as much levity as circumstances will admit."

Dying while his children were still young, Joseph John II was concerned for their future:

It is my will that my Children be educated as my Daughter as my Sons and that attention be paid to the morals of my children. Should my sons prefer any particular profession I wish them indulged and if the profit arising from my estates is not sufficient my Exrs will sell such part of my perishable property as will enable them but if one has a great deal more this way than another it must come out of his Part of the Estate. I know how common it is for you to wish to be free about the age of eighteen but I trust my Executors and the Guardian of my Children will keep them at Somthing and in no case suffer them to be idle till they are free when I can have no control over them they must ¹⁷do as they please when a division of my estate is necessary.

Thomas Calvin Williams II, who came of age in 1876, seems to have gained full interest from his sisters, perhaps because his older sisters had married and moved away before their mother's death. He lived at White Rock with his first wife Alice Faulcon. At her death in childbirth, family memory recalls, he moved away in sadness, to Henderson and then Macon where he was a merchant. When he married his second wife, Sallie Hardee Gillam in 1895 (she was 19, he 39) they returned to White

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Rock and renovated the place, cutting down overgrown boxwood and remodeling the house somewhat. The house had been rented, and the Williamses lived in a store house nearby while the renovation was done.¹⁸

At T. C. Williams II's death in 1925 the estate of about 1,000 acres was divided among seven children, and the youngest, Tasker Williams (1915-1960), received the home property of 60 acres. The surrounding land remains in the family. His brother Joseph John Williams V (the oldest brother) bought from him 60 acres including the home place. He again remodeled the place, adding the "Mount Vernon" porch. He deeded it to his son Robert C. Williams, now the owner.¹⁹

Footnotes

¹Family Bible records in Williams family possession, photocopy in Survey Files; this is one of several documents provided by Rocert Corr, hereinafter cited as Williams/Corr documents.

²Joseph John Williams acquired the property on September 14, 1772, when he bought 3,200 acres from William Moseley. The land had formerly belonged to William's father Edward Moseley who willed it to his son, and it had been originally granted to Samuel Swann by Lord Granville (1728). Swann transferred his rights to Moseley one month after receiving the grant. This property was difficult to locate because it is described as being all the lands on the southwest side of Butterwood Creek, which would make it appear to be the wrong property. However, Butterwood Creek was in the early years known as Fishing Creek and extended southward to Great Fishing Creek. Sometime in the early 1800s a distinction was made between Butterwood and Little Fishing Creek, leaving the former north of the White Rock land. A checking of all land grants and other deeds leaves it pretty clear that this was the means by which Joseph John Williams (I) acquired the property. See Halifax County Deed Book 12, p. 274, and Collet Map (1770).

³Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. X, passim.

⁴U. S. Census, Williams/Corr documents; State Records of North Carolina, Clark, XXVI, p. 601.

⁵Williams/Corr documents, family Bible records, and Catherine Bishir, "The Montmorenci-Prospect Hill School," Carolina Dwelling (Raleigh: University of North Carolina Graphics, 1978).

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- ⁶ Deed of Gift, Williams/Corr documents.
- ⁷ Joseph John Williams II will; copy of original among Williams/Corr documents.
- ⁸ Joseph John William I, will, Halifax County Will book 3, p. 615. Joseph John Williams I left to his son William Williams, "the Plantation Whereon I now live," plus lands in Halifax and Warren Counties not otherwise given away. William Williams was an executor of this will too.
- ⁹ Bishir, interview with Edith Williams Corr.
- ¹⁰ Mary K. Davis was one of a large family whose composition says much about the life of the times: a family bible records that her father Archibald Davis (born 1766) and mother Elizabeth Hilliard (born 1769) were married in 1789. Children were born regularly in 1790, 1792, 1793, 1795, 1797, 1799, 1801, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1808, and 1811--7 girls (remembered as beautiful and lively young women) and 5 sons. Elizabeth died in 1814 at age 45, three years after the birth of her 12th child, and Archibald died in 1822, leaving five children under the age of 21. Davis owned nearly 5,000 acres in Franklin County and the land was divided among his three sons, with one plantation going to his son Archibald H. (see Archibald H. Davis plantation, Franklin County, NR). A daughter Lucy married Nicholas Massenburg (see Woodleaf or Massenburg plantation, Franklin County, also NR).
- ¹¹ Family tradition states this.
- ¹² At Joseph John Williams III's death in 1833, his estate was carefully inventoried, and his many possessions listed. This provides a vivid picture of the life of the wealthy planter at the time. His 75 slaves were listed by name and age ranging from an infant to age 60, with skills of some--Leory, 45, a blacksmith, and Ben, 28, carpenter--noted. Stock was enumerated, including 2 carriage horses, 1 riding horse, 6 work horses, and a colt, plus 10 mules, 27 cows, 12 oxen, 11 calves, 1 bull, 11 yearlings, 46 sheep, 14 lambs, 114 hogs "including breeding sows, 24 shoats and 51 pigs. A multitude of plantation implements, a set of blacksmith tools, 2 old cotton gins, 15 ploughs, 21 clark hoes, 11 chopping hoes, 19 grubbing hoes, etc., wagons and a carriage, a man's saddle and a side saddle, 3 looms, 9 spinning wheels. Household goods included 1 large mahogany curtain bedstead, 2 painted pine dressing tables, 1 walnut do, 2 mahogany card tables, 1 mahogany tea table, 2 walnut dining tables and 1 small do, 1 walnut china press, 1 secretary and book case (mahogany), 1 old book case and secretary (walnut), 1 mahogany sideboard, 1 large mahogany clock, 1 dozen flat bottom chairs, etc., dozens of glasses--wine glasses, cut glass tumblers, jelly

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glasses, etc.--painted glass plates, 4 cut glass decanters, 2 snuff bottles, 2 stone pitchers, 33 butter and preserve pots, 1 Britannia Coffepot, 1 do tea do, 1 set castors (new), 1 do (old), a dozen new silver table spoons and 5 old, 1 silver tea spoons, 2 silver salt sponns, brass candle sticks, razors, an ink stand, 1 scotch carpent, 1 homespun do (only 2 carpets), 11 featherbeds, 11 mattressess, 22 white counterpanes, 4 checked do, 16 window curtains (whether sufficient for 16 windows or for only 8 is uncertain), 4 bed quilts, 1 calico spread, 6 suits valence, 8 pair Rose Blankets, 1 suit calico bed curtains, 1 suit white do, 13 pillows, 16 pair sheets, 12 pair pillow cases, 12 towels, 4 bureau toilets, 5 table do, many tubs and boxes and trays, iron pots, a sulky, 6 beehives, and more.

The family possessed a great many books ranging from a 7-volume set of Wesleys works and a 6-volume history of the bible to a 5-volume life of Washington and Memoirs of Jacksons to Don Quixote and Paradise Lost to Letters of Advice to a young lady, the Art of Speaking in Public, a prayer book, 4 hymn books, and others.

¹³1833 Will, Joseph John Williams III, Halifax County Wills, Book 4, p. 94.

¹⁴Williams/Coor documents.

¹⁵D. L. Tayloe to Lucy Williams, White tract, Nov. 22, 1849.

¹⁶1860, 1870 Census records (Halifax County; Warren County Marriage Bonds.) Information taken from 1860 and 1870 census records for Halifax County, and from Warren County Marriage Bonds.

¹⁷Wills, Halifax County Will Books, #:615, 4:94.

¹⁸Bishir interview with Edith Corr, daughter of Thomas and Sallie Williams.

¹⁹Bishir interview; T. C. and Sallie Williams to J. J. Williams (Halifax County Deed Book 370:p. 149 (1926); 1928 commissioners report (Book 676, p. 261, Halifax County); deed in possession of present owners.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bishir, Catherine W. "The Montmorenci-Prospect Hill School." Carolina Dwelling.
Raleigh: University of North Carolina Graphics, 1978.
- Corr, Robert. Williams family papers (copied) and other research. Copies in Survey
and Planning Branch Files. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.
- Halifax County Records. Halifax County Courthouse. Halifax, North Carolina. Subgroups:
Deeds, Wills, Estates papers.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60 acres--see boundary description

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	237780	4020520
B	17	237600	4020340
C	17	237040	4020330
D	17	237200	4020310

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description and Significance prepared by Catherine W. Bishir, Head, Survey
and Planning Branch; with historical information supplied by Robert L. Corr and Jerry

ORGANIZATION	Cross, Researcher	DATE
Division of Archives and History		
STREET & NUMBER	109 East Jones Street	TELEPHONE
		(919) 733-4763
CITY OR TOWN	Raleigh	STATE
		North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐ STATE ☒ LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I
hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 2, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

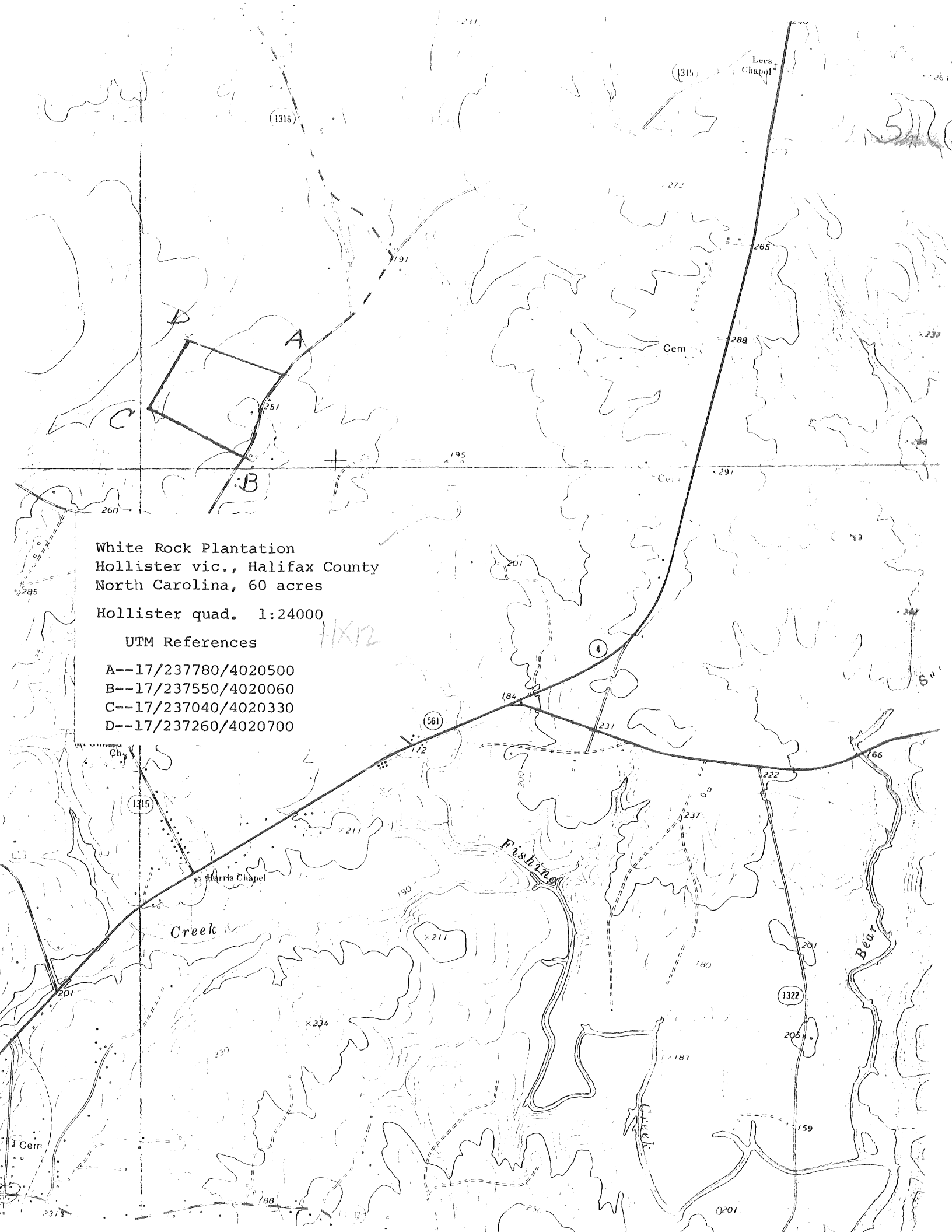
The nominated property is a tract of 60 acres, which since at least 1925, when T. C. Williams's estate was divided, has been considered the house tract. This includes the house, outbuildings, site of the earlier house, and is the smallest parcel into which the place has been divided. This tract is surrounded by other tracts divided in the estate settlement, and these, still in farm use, are held primarily by family members. The tract was described in the 1928 Commissioners report (Jessie W. Cushwa, Plaintiff, vs. Lucy E. Williams et al) and recorded in 1963 (Book 676, p. 261, Halifax County Deeds).

To TASKER WILLIAMS we allotted that certain tract or parcel of land situate in Brinkleyville Township, Halifax County, State of North Carolina, bounded as follows:

BEGINNING at "Dower" and Sallie E. Williams' corner in center of road opposite a stake at "Grove" fence corner post, thence with said Sallie Edith Williams' line N 64 deg. 45' 2000 feet to stake at Sallie E. Williams' corner in Mrs. Sallie G. Williams' line; thence with Mrs. Williams' line N 2 deg. E. 940 feet to stake near small Branch at Mary G. Williams' corner; thence with her line S 80 deg. 30' E 2560 feet to center of Road opposite a stake at said Mary G. Williams' corner; thence along said Road with "Dower" 1597 feet to the BEGINNING: Containing sixty (60) acres, with the Home Residence, Being Lot No. 3 as shown on map made by C. E. Foster, C. E. dated May 11, 1928, and recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 84, Office of Register of Deeds for Halifax County, North Carolina.

The tract is marked on Map No. 266, Brinkleyville Township, March 1964, a xerox of which is attached. The tract outlined on the USGS map attempts to approximate this.

A--17/237780/4020500
B--17/237550/4020060
C--17/237040/4020330
D--17/237260/4020700





United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection number 1, 3 Page 1**White Rock Plantation – Additional**
Documentation

Name of Property

Halifax County, North Carolina

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

1. Name of Property

White Rock Plantation—Additional Documentation

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:**Date**_____
Title :**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 4, 8, 11 Page 2

White Rock Plantation - Additional
Documentation

Name of Property

Halifax County, North Carolina

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Section 8—Additional Documentation

This additional documentation provides corrected information in regards to documentation in the National Register nomination, Section 8, pages 1 and 2 for White Rock Plantation, Halifax County, North Carolina. The nomination inaccurately named the wife of Joseph John Williams as Elizabeth (Betsy) Norfleet Hunter. Her correct maiden name is Elizabeth Norfleet Hunter Williams, as she was the daughter of Elisha Williams and Sarah Josey. This omission of her maiden last name is likely attributed to the fact she married Joseph John Williams and the researcher must have assumed Williams was her married last name and not her maiden name.

This new information was submitted by Larry Feldhaus of Hendersonville, Tennessee, a descendant of Elisha Williams, from original family bible records on file in the Index of Bible Records from the Warren County NC Clerks Office in Warrenton, North Carolina, which clearly indicates Mrs. Williams' maiden last name. The specific sources are the Williams-Polk-Davis Bible, printed in 1832, and the Williams & Polk Family Bible, brought in by Mrs. John Mitchell in 1975, no published date.

Section 11

Form prepared by: Scott Power, Regional Supervisor, Eastern Office—NC State Historic Preservation Office, 117 West Fifth Street, Greenville, NC 27858, tel. 252-830-6580. Date: July 29, 2013